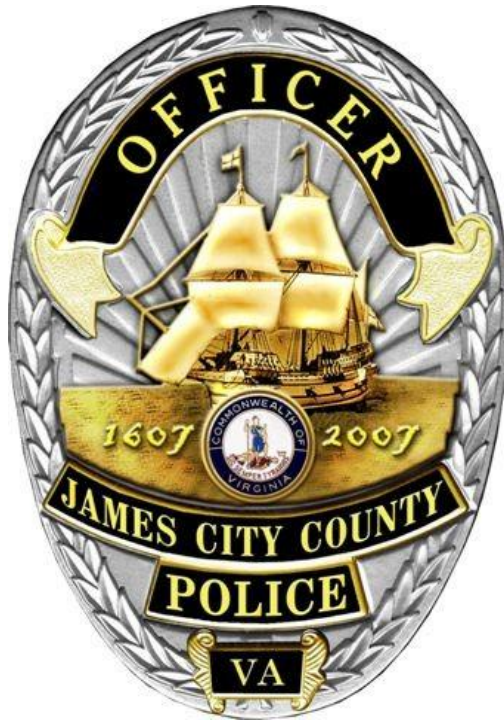


# Community Services Unit



## Crime Prevention Evaluation 2010

## **Community Services Unit Crime Prevention Evaluation 2010**

In 2010 the Community Services Unit continued to work towards meeting its primary goals and objectives including effective implementation of the James City County Police Department's crime prevention, community policing, and school education efforts. The goal of all Community Services programs, as described in the James City County Police Department Policy and Procedure Manual, is to improve community relations in order to realize the positive reinforcement provided by a confident and content community. To that end, the Community Services Unit works with all department personnel to provide services to our citizens that will reduce their fear of crime, and increase their confidence in the Police Department, in order to improve their quality of life. The Community Services Unit serves as a liaison to citizens, the business community, local civic organizations, and other county departments. To meet these diverse goals, the Community Services Unit is engaged in many activities.

The Community Services Unit had several notable accomplishments in 2010. These accomplishments included a record setting VIN etching event that helped to inoculate our community against auto theft, a record turnout for the National Night Out celebration in August, and the GREAT program has continued to expand and educate youth in the areas of violence prevention, bullying, and resisting gang influences. These programs and others have helped to make this a very successful year for the Community Services Unit.

Neighborhood Watch remains a cornerstone of the activities of the Community Services Unit and is one of our highest priorities and continued to be the main focus of Community Services Unit activities in 2010. Members of the Community Services Unit attended 33 Neighborhood Watch meetings and gave presentations about Neighborhood Watch to several more. The total number of Neighborhood Watch meetings decreased from 50 in 2009. 3 new Neighborhood Watch programs were started or restarted in 2010. Some of these programs had been inactive for several years. Community interest in Neighborhood Watch changes as the concerns of the community change. The decrease in Neighborhood Watch meetings may be related to local economic trouble. James City County continues to experience a relatively low crime rate and citizens are not interested in spending time and energy combating a problem they do not experience. The Community Services Unit will continue to work to generate interest in this proactive program to help our citizens protect themselves from crime.

The Business Watch program continued to work cooperatively with the business community in order to organize business response to crime problems in the community. The Community Services Unit only attended 3 Business Watch meetings, a decrease from 9 in 2009. Crime prevention information was also passed on to businesses through 22 educational programs and meetings. Topics covered during these crime prevention meetings included shoplifting, identity theft, internal theft, and burglary and robbery prevention. Business crime prevention education was also provided through 8 Business Security Surveys that were conducted. The Business Security Survey is an important tool used by the Community Services Unit to educate business owners and employees on topics ranging from burglary and robbery prevention to shoplifting and employee theft. Many of the banks in James City County also took advantage of robbery prevention training offered by the Community Services Unit this year. Successfully marketing our

business crime prevention and education programs is a challenge we continue to work to overcome.

Crime prevention education for citizens remains one of the top priorities of the Community Services Unit. Our most popular programs are specifically designed to inform and educate our citizens in the area of crime prevention. These programs include the RAD program, Child ID, and various specialty talks and presentations to specific groups. The RAD program continues to be popular and successful with many more classes offered in 2010. The Child ID program is also very popular and is requested at most community events. This program provides the parents with a child ID, but it also presents an opportunity for officers to educate parents about strategies to prevent lost and missing children. The Community Services Unit is working to improve these programs and the way they are offered in order to maintain their popularity, and increase their availability.

The Community Services Unit continues to provide services to assist the at risk populations in James City County. These programs target the elderly, the very young, and the non-English speaking population. Programs that were offered in 2010 for the elderly include participation in regional groups like TRIAD and SALT which both work to meet the special needs of the elderly. Project Lifesaver and the File of Life program were also offered. Project Lifesaver is one of our most vital programs offered for the elderly population and has been in recent months with an average of 25 participants registered at any one time in 2010. The Community Services Unit continues to reach out to the non-English speaking population through the Network for Latino People. The Community Services Unit has successfully distributed crime prevention information to members of the Hispanic population of the county through the Network for Latino People.

The School Resource Officers working in the middle and high schools in James City County have provided comprehensive law enforcement services to the populations of those schools in addition to counseling students, teaching a myriad of classes, and serving on multiple committees working to improve the schools. They arrested over 95 juveniles in the schools for offenses including possession of weapons on school property, distribution of narcotics, possession of narcotics, assault and battery, and disorderly conduct. School Resource Officers made over 350 presentations in their schools in 2010. They conducted over 1000 student interventions in 2010. The School Resource Officers also presented programs like Every 30 Minutes and SIDNE, the Simulated Impaired Driving Experience, to increase awareness about the consequences of dangerous behaviors like using illegal drugs and drinking and driving. Gang recruitment and activity has subsided in recent months, however youth violence has continued to present the school resource officers with new challenges. The school resource officers face the continuing challenges of improving intelligence gathering, sharing information with other officers and school staff, and increasing officer safety concerns. The Community Services Unit also provides programs directed at elementary school children. Officers participated in the 911 Helpers program in cooperation with the Fire Department.

The GREAT (Gang Resistance Education and Training) program continued in 2010. GREAT is a program that helps educate youth in the community about making better decisions, avoiding conflict, solving problems without violence, and resisting the influence of criminal street gangs. Over 1067 participants graduated from the GREAT

program in 2010. This program will continue to change and evolve to better meet community needs in 2011.

Community Services Officers were also involved in many other activities in 2010. Some of these activities include the Technical Site review program, The Historic Triangle Substance Abuse Coalition, The Hampton Roads Crime Prevention Association, and the Child Abuse Coalition.

James City County Police Department Policy and Procedure 600 details the priorities of the Community Services Unit. Those priorities are to provide security surveys to residences and businesses develop and maintain Neighborhood and Business Watch programs, provide crime prevention programs to businesses, and provide crime prevention education to citizens. The Community Services Unit is working to increase the number of security surveys and Neighborhood and Business Watch programs and meetings. Crime prevention education and training for citizens and businesses was the focus of much of the activity in 2010.

Marketing and promoting crime prevention services, especially services like security surveys and watch groups, continues to be a top priority for the Community Services Unit. Our most recent citizen satisfaction surveys indicate that our citizens have a very low fear of crime and are generally satisfied with their local law enforcement services. The citizen satisfaction and low fear of crime are both indicators of the success of our crime prevention efforts. However, they make it increasingly difficult to market the programs necessary to maintain the low crime rate that puts citizens at ease. The Community Services Unit faces the challenge of improving and increasing the services we provide and finding new ways to successfully market our services to the community in the face of the possibility of an increase in crime rate due to changing economic pressures. The Community Services Unit will meet this challenge by focusing on developing good working relationships with neighborhood, business, and community leaders and embracing the true spirit of community policing through improved lines of communications between our citizens and the Police Department.